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U.S. Jewish groups urge heightened security at public events after Hanukkah attack in Australia

By **DAVID CRARY**
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Leading Jewish groups in the United States are urging all Jewish organizations to ratchet up security measures at public events including restrictions on access following the deadly mass shooting that targeted a Hanukkah celebration on a popular Australian beach.

The groups including three which specialize in security issues said Jewish public events in the coming days should be open only to people who had been screened after preregistering.

"Provide details of location, time, and other information only upon confirmed registration," the groups' advisory said. "Have access control (locks and entrance procedures) to only allow known, confirmed registrants/attendees into the facility/event."

Coinciding with this urgent appeal for increased precautions, some rabbis said their synagogues would proceed with large-scale



People look at the Menorah during the annual National Menorah Lighting in celebration of Hanukkah, on the Ellipse near the White House in Washington, Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025.

Associated Press

celebrations, intended to demonstrate resilience. The mass shooting is the latest reminder of the Jewish community's longstanding reality of having to factor security into religious practice.

"This week, let us choose

Jewish joy, communal strength, and courageous hope," said a message posted by Temple Beth Shalom, one of the largest synagogues in the Miami area. "We invite every member of our family ... to join us this week as we celebrate

Chanukah. Let us gather to share the warmth of the candles and reaffirm our unbreakable connection." Similar sentiments were expressed by Rabbi Jeffrey Myers of Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Congregation, a survivor of the 2018 attack by an antisemitic gunman that killed 11 worshippers at the synagogue.

"Hanukkah is supposed to be a time of light, celebrating the resilience of our people," Myers said. "In the face of antisemitism and violence, my prayer is that we don't let the fear win but instead lean into our Jewishness and practice our tradition proudly."

At least 15 people died in Sunday's attack, which has fueled criticism that the nation's authorities were not doing enough to combat a surge in antisemitic crimes. On Monday, Australian leaders promised to overhaul already-tough gun control laws after the targeted attack on Sydney's Bondi Beach.

Among those killed was Eli Schlanger, assistant rabbi at Chabad of Bondi and an organizer of the family Hanukkah event, according to Chabad, an Orthodox Jewish movement that runs outreach worldwide and is known for its public menorah lightings.

Just a year earlier, according to Chabad, Schlanger had urged his fellow Jews to be uncowed in the face of rising antisemitism, voicing this message, "Be more Jewish, act more Jewish and appear more Jewish." Chabad.org said Chabad centers worldwide are going ahead with thousands of planned public menorah lightings and community Hanukkah celebrations "while taking greater security precautions — calling on the Jewish community to drown out hate with greater light and goodness while mourning those lost and wounded in Sydney."

In a speech delivered after the Australia attack, the president of the largest branch of Judaism in North America elaborated on the mix of dismay and determination being experienced through the Jewish community.

"We are thinking about security and how to live openly and safely as Jews asking questions that are newer to us but would have been all too familiar to generations of our ancestors," said Rabbi Rick Jacobs of the Union for Reform Judaism.

"We need to ask these hard questions. We need to be smart about security and protecting ourselves and our fellow Jews — whether within the synagogue walls, or when we walk down the street wearing a kippah," he added. "But the spirit of the defiant Maccabees is also part of the Hanukkah story. Our Jewish community will not go into hiding. We are proud Jews and will remain so even as we make the security of our Jewish community a primary obligation."

Jacobs referred to the Jewish tradition of placing the Hanukkah menorah in a window for others to see.

"But in the Babylonian Talmud we are taught that in a time of danger, we do not do that," Jacobs said. "We have been living in a time of growing danger for several years now. And for too many Jews, putting a menorah in the window is too dangerous." □

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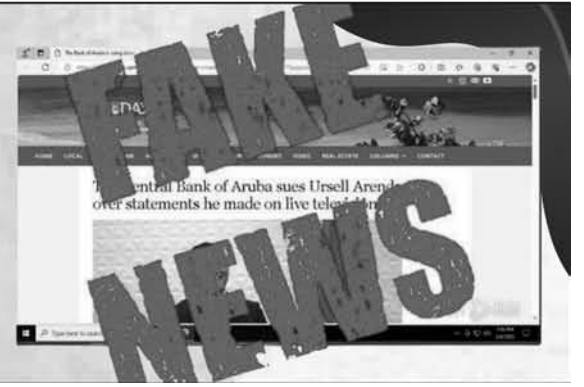
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This undated combo photo created with images released by the Iowa National Guard shows Sgts. William Nathaniel Howard, left, and Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar.

Associated Press

U.S. Army names 2 Iowa National Guard members killed in attack in Syria

By **BEN FINLEY**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The two Iowa National Guard members killed in a week-end attack in Syria that the U.S. military blamed on the Islamic State group were identified Monday and remembered as dedicated soldiers.

The U.S. Army named them as Sgt. Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar, 25, of Des Moines, and Sgt. William Nathaniel Howard, 29, of Marshalltown.

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds ordered all flags in Iowa to fly at half-staff in their honor, saying that, "We are grateful for their service and deeply mourn their loss."

The Pentagon's chief spokesman, Sean Parnell, has said a U.S. civilian working as an interpreter also was killed. Three other Guard members were wounded in the attack, the Iowa National Guard said Monday, with two of them

in stable condition and the other in good condition.

The attack was a major test for the rapprochement between the United States and Syria since the ouster of autocratic leader Bashar Assad a year ago, coming as the U.S. military is expanding its cooperation with Syrian security forces. Hundreds of American troops are deployed in eastern Syria as part of a coalition fighting IS.

How the attack happened The shooting Saturday in the Syrian desert near the historic city of Palmyra also wounded members of the country's security forces, and the gunman was killed. The assailant had joined Syria's internal security forces as a base security guard two months ago and recently was reassigned amid suspicions that he might be affiliated with IS, a Syrian official said.

The man stormed a meeting between U.S. and Syrian

security officials who were having lunch together and opened fire after clashing with Syrian guards, Interior Ministry spokesperson Nour al-Din al-Baba said Sunday. Al-Baba acknowledged that it was "a major security breach" but said that in the year since Assad's fall, "there have been many more successes than failures" by security forces.

The Army said Monday that the incident is under investigation. Military officials and President Donald Trump have blamed the attack on an IS member.

Trump administration vows retaliation

"Our hearts go out to their families, and we lift them up in prayer for strength and comfort during this time of grief," Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Monday on social media. "The United States of America will avenge these fallen Americans with overwhelming force." □

Purse pirates: UPS ripped off seasonal workers with unfair pay practices, lawsuit alleges



This April 25, 2011 file photo shows United Parcel Service driver Albert Palafox in Palo Alto, Calif.

Associated Press

By **MICHAEL R. SISAK**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — UPS stole tens of millions of dollars in pay from seasonal workers who help the shipping giant deliver packages during the busy holiday season, forcing some to clock in well after their shifts started and deducting pay for lunch breaks they never took, New York Attorney General Letitia James alleged in a lawsuit Monday.

Filed in state court in Manhattan, the lawsuit accuses UPS of "repeatedly and persistently" failing to properly compensate driver helpers, who assist with deliveries, and seasonal support drivers, who use their own vehicles to make deliveries. James estimated that in the last six years, UPS has deprived tens of thousands of seasonal workers of wages totaling about \$45 million. The lawsuit seeks back pay and penalties, plus a court order requiring UPS to end off-the-clock work and change its timekeeping and payroll practices. The company, known for its brown trucks and uniforms, delivered an average of 22.4 million packages a day and brought in \$91.1 billion in revenue last year, according to its website.

"We oftentimes don't think of these workers when we're opening up our gifts for the holidays," James said at a news conference announcing the lawsuit. "And these individuals are struggling each and every day to make ends meet." In a statement, Georgia-based UPS said it was aware of the lawsuit, "takes all accusations of wrongdoing seriously and denies the unfounded allegation of intentionally underpaying UPS employees." "We offer industry-leading pay and benefits to our more than 26,000 employees in New York, and we remain committed to following all applicable laws," the statement said. □

4 charged with plotting New Year's Eve attacks in Southern California, prosecutors say

By **JULIE WATSON** and
CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Federal authorities said Monday that they foiled a plot to bomb multiple U.S. companies on New Year's Eve in Southern California, announcing the arrests of members of an extremist anti-capitalist and anti-government group. The four suspects were arrested Friday as they were testing explosives in the desert east of Los Angeles, First Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Essayli said during a news conference.

Officials showed reporters surveillance aerial footage of the four suspects moving a large black object in the desert to a table shortly before their arrests.

In the criminal complaint, the four suspects named are Audrey Illeene Carroll, 30; Zachary Aaron Page, 32; Dante Gaffield, 24; and Tina Lai, 41. They are all from the Los Angeles area, Essayli said. Officials did not describe a motive but said they are members of an offshoot of a pro-Palestinian group dubbed the Turtle Island Liberation Front. Each faces charges including conspiracy and possession



Photos of suspects of a terror plot are shown on a screen during a press conference Monday, Dec. 15, 2025, in Los Angeles.

of a destructive device, Essayli said, adding that additional charges were expected in coming weeks. It wasn't immediately clear if they had attorneys and The Associated Press was unable to reach family members.

Essayli said Carroll last month created a detailed plan to bomb five or more locations across Southern California on New Year's Eve and

were trying to hit multiple companies. He declined to name the companies but described them as "Amazon-type" logistical centers. "Carroll's bomb plot was explicit," Essayli said. "It included step-by-step instructions to build IEDs... and listed multiple targets across Orange County and Los Angeles."

The plan included planting backpacks filled with ex-

plosive devices at multiple businesses that were set to blow up simultaneously at midnight on New Year's Eve, according to officials and the criminal complaint. Two of the group's members also had discussed plans for future attacks including targeting Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and vehicles with pipe bombs in 2026, according to the criminal

complaint.

"Carroll stated that some of those plans would quote 'take some of them out and scare the rest,'" Essayli said. The plans were discussed both at an in-person meeting with members in Los Angeles and through an encrypted messaging app, Essayli said.

Evidence photos included in the court documents show a desert campsite with what investigators said were bomb-making materials strewn across plastic folding tables.

The suspects "all brought bomb-making components to the campsite, including various sizes of PVC pipes, suspected potassium nitrate, charcoal, charcoal powder, sulfur powder, and material to be used as fuses, among others," the complaint states.

The plan stated that the backpacks would contain complex pipe bombs and included instructions on how to manufacture them and also how to avoid leaving evidence behind tracing anything back to the group, officials said. The suspects recently had acquired precursor chemicals and other items, they added. □

Associated Press

Man who tried to assassinate Trump on golf course requests attorney for sentencing



In this image released by the Martin County, Fla., Sheriff's Office, law enforcement officers arrest Ryan Routh, the man suspected in the apparent assassination attempt of Donald Trump, Sept. 15, 2024.

Associated Press

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A man convicted of trying to assassinate President Donald Trump on a Florida golf course last year has decided to use an attorney during the sentencing phase instead of representing himself as he did for most of the trial.

The sentencing hearing for Ryan Routh in Fort Pierce, Florida, was pushed back from this week to early February after he requested and was granted an attorney to represent him during the sentencing and appeal phases of the trial.

The federal courtroom erupted into chaos in September shortly after jurors found Routh guilty on all

counts, including attempting to kill a presidential candidate and several firearm-related charges. Routh tried to stab himself in the neck with a pen, and officers quickly dragged him out.

The pen Routh used was flexible to prevent people in custody from using it as a weapon.

Prosecutors said Routh, 59, spent weeks plotting to kill Trump before aiming a rifle through shrubbery as the then-Republican presidential candidate played golf on Sept. 15, 2024, at his West Palm Beach country club.

At Routh's trial, a Secret Service agent helping protect Trump on the golf course testified that he spotted

Routh before Trump came into view.

Routh aimed his rifle at the agent, who opened fire, causing Routh to drop his weapon and run away without firing a shot.

In the motion requesting an attorney, Routh offered to trade his life in a prisoner swap with inmates unjustly held in other countries and said an offer still stood for Trump to "take out his frustrations on my face."

"Just a quarter of an inch further back and we all would not have to deal with all of this mess forwards, but I always fail at everything (par for the course)," Routh wrote.

In her decision granting Routh an attorney, U. S. District Judge Aileen Cannon

chastised the "disrespectful charade" of Routh's motion, saying it made a mockery of the proceedings. But the judge, nominated by Trump in 2020, said she wanted to err on the side of legal representation.

Cannon signed off on Routh's request to represent himself following two hearings in July. The U.S. Supreme Court has held that criminal defendants have the right to represent themselves in court proceedings, as long as they can show a judge they are competent to waive their right to be defended by an attorney. Routh's former defense attorneys served as standby counsel and were present during the trial. □

U.S. officials say Washington has agreed to give Ukraine security guarantees in peace talks

By STEFANIE DAZIO and
AAMER MADHANI
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — The U.S. has agreed to provide unspecified security guarantees to Ukraine as part of a peace deal to end Russia's nearly four-year war, and more talks are likely this weekend, U.S. officials said Monday following the latest discussions with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Berlin.

The officials said talks with President Donald Trump's envoys, Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, led to narrowing differences on security guarantees that Kyiv said must be provided, as well as Moscow's demand that Ukraine concede land in the Donbas region in the country's east.

Trump was expected to dial into a dinner Monday evening with negotiators and European leaders, and more talks are likely this weekend in Miami or elsewhere in the United States, according to the U.S. officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly by the White House.

The U.S. officials said the of-



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reacts during a press conference with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz at the Chancellery in Berlin, Germany, Monday, Dec. 15, 2025.

Associated Press

fer of security guarantees won't be on the table "forever." They said the Trump administration plans to put forward the agreement on security guarantees for Senate approval, although they didn't specify whether it would be ratified like a treaty, which needs the chamber's two-thirds approval. The U.S. officials also said there is consensus

on about 90% of the U.S.-authored peace plan, and that Russia has indicated it is open to Ukraine joining the European Union, something it previously said it did not object to.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said the Ukrainians, Americans and Europeans agree that "a ceasefire should be secured by substantial legal

and material security guarantees from the U.S. and Europe," calling it a "truly far-reaching, substantial agreement that we did not have before, namely that both Europe and the U.S. are jointly prepared to do this."

Questions over Ukraine's postwar security and the fate of occupied territories have been the main ob-

stacles in talks. Zelenskyy has emphasized that any Western security assurances would need to be legally binding and supported by the U.S. Congress.

Zelenskyy on Monday called talks "substantial" and noted that differences remain on the issue of territories.

Zelenskyy has expressed readiness to drop Ukraine's bid to join the NATO military alliance if the U.S. and other Western nations give Kyiv security guarantees similar to those offered to NATO members. But Ukraine's preference remains NATO membership as the best security guarantee to prevent further Russian aggression.

Ukraine has continued to reject the U.S. push for ceding territory to Russia. Russian President Vladimir Putin wants Ukraine to withdraw its forces from the part of Donetsk region still under its control as a key condition for peace.

The Russian president has cast Ukraine's bid to join NATO as a major threat to Moscow's security and a reason for launching the full-scale invasion in February 2022. □

Austrian court rules against extradition of Ukrainian businessman to U.S. over alleged bribery

VIENNA (AP) — An Austrian appeals court has rejected a request to extradite Ukrainian businessman Dmytro Firtash to the United States in a case of alleged corruption through a plot to pay bribes in India.

The Vienna high regional court dismissed the appeal of a lower court ruling last year in the long-running legal saga. The high court said its decision announced on Dec. 10 was final.

Firtash faces a U.S. indictment accusing him of a conspiracy to pay bribes in India to mine titanium, which is used in jet engines. He has denied any wrongdoing.

The Vienna court said the

extradition request was related to the payment of bribes in the tens of millions of euros (dollars) for mining licenses in India, but ruled it was "inadmissible because of immunity under international law."

Robert Kert, a professor at the Institute for Austrian and European Economic Criminal Law, said the ruling was not a substantive decision but more of a formality following the lower court's verdict last year.

He said prosecutors missed the deadline to file their appeal against Firtash, who had claimed diplomatic immunity as a one-time representative of Belarus to international institutions in Vienna.

"I have the impression the

interest in seeing Mr. Firtash extradited is not that big," Kert said Monday by phone. Six years ago, a Chicago federal judge rejected a motion to dismiss the indictment against Firtash, who has argued that the U.S. has no jurisdiction over crimes in India. However, the judge ruled that it does, because any scheme would have impacted a Chicago-based company.

American aviation company Boeing, based in Chicago, has said it considered business with Firtash but never followed through. It is not accused of any wrongdoing.

Firtash was arrested in Austria in 2014, and then freed on 125 million euros (\$131

million) bail, kicking off the ongoing legal saga. A Vienna court initially ruled against extradition on the grounds that the indictment was politically motivated. A higher court in

February 2017 rejected that reasoning as "insufficiently substantiated" and ruled that Firtash could be extradited. Austria's Supreme Court of Justice upheld that ruling in 2019. □



Ukrainian oligarch Dmytro Firtash waits for the start of his trial at the courts of justice in Vienna, Austria, Feb. 21, 2017.

Associated Press

Trinidad and Tobago to open its airports to US military as tensions with Venezuela escalate

By ANSELM GIBBS

Associated Press

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad

(AP) — The government of Trinidad and Tobago said Monday that it would allow the U.S. military access to its airports in coming weeks as tensions build between the United States and Venezuela.

The announcement comes after the U.S. military recently installed a radar system at the airport in Tobago. The Caribbean country's government has said the radar is being used to fight local crime, and that the small nation would not be used as a launchpad to attack any other country.

The U.S. would use the airports for activity that would be "logistical in nature, facilitating supply replenishment and routine personnel rotations," Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement. It did not provide further details.

Trinidad's prime minister previously has praised ongoing



The USS Gravelly destroyer arrives to dock for military exercises in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025.

U.S. strikes on alleged drug boats in the Caribbean. Only seven miles separate Venezuela from the twin-island Caribbean nation at their closest point. It has two main airports: Piarco International Airport in Trinidad

and ANR Robinson International Airport in Tobago. Amery Browne, an opposition senator and the country's former foreign minister, accused the government of being deceptive in its announcement.

Browne said Trinidad and Tobago has become "complicit facilitators of extrajudicial killings, cross-border tension and belligerence." "There is nothing routine about this. It has nothing to do with the usual coopera-

tion and friendly collaborations that we have enjoyed with the USA and all of our neighbors for decades," he said.

He said the cooperation with the U.S. takes the country "a further step down the path of a satellite state" and that it embraces a "might is right philosophy."

The U.S. strikes began in September and have killed more than 80 people as the U.S. builds up a fleet of warships near Venezuela, including the largest U.S. aircraft carrier.

In October, a U.S. warship docked in Trinidad's capital as the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump boosts military pressure on neighboring Venezuela and its President Nicolás Maduro.

U.S. lawmakers have questioned the legality of the strikes against vessels in the Caribbean and the eastern Pacific Ocean and recently announced there would be a congressional review of them. □

UAE-backed Yemeni separatists march to another southern province, raising fears of renewed conflict

BY SAMY MAGDY

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — An Emirati-backed secessionist group in Yemen said its forces were marching Monday to another province as part of the group's push to expand areas under its control in the country's south, at the expense of its allies in the internationally recognized government.

The Southern Transitional Council this month seized most of the provinces of Hadramout and Mahra, including crucial oil facilities and the border with Oman. The move raised fears that the relative calm in the country's stalemated civil war might be shattered.

Saudi-led efforts to deescalate in southern Yemen have not made a breakthrough as the separatists still reject the withdrawal of their forces from areas they recently seized, according to a Yemeni government

official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the issue.

Yemen has been mired for more than a decade in a civil war that involves a complex interplay of sectarian grievances and the involvement of regional powers. The Iran-aligned

Houthis control the most populous regions of the country, including the capital, Sanaa. Meanwhile, a loose regional coalition of powers including Saudi Arabia and the UAE has backed the internationally recognized government in the south. The Southern

Armed Forces, the armed wing of the separatist group, announced Monday that its forces have begun an operation in the province of Abyan.

It said on social media the fresh march is part of Operation Eastern Arrows, which STC launched in August 2022 with the aim of fighting an affiliate of al-Qaida that was active in the eastern part of the province.

The forces' spokesman, Lt. Col. Mohammed al-Naqib, posted images on the X social media platform showing armored vehicles and troops advancing toward what he said was Abyan. He told a television channel affiliated with the STC that their forces have begun "the immediate offensive on multiple targets" in Abyan. He didn't elaborate further.

Abyan is located on the Gulf of Aden, a deepwater gulf that connects the Red

Sea with the Arabian Sea. It serves as a crucial land link between Yemen's southern cities and Mahra, on the border with Oman.

No breakthrough in Saudi efforts to deescalate

The latest march is likely to complicate Saudi-led efforts to deescalate tensions between the separatist group and the internationally recognized government.

The government official said STC leader Aidarous al-Zubaidi, who is also vice president of the country's Presidential Leadership Council, rejected the withdrawal of his forces from areas they recently seized in Hadramout and Mahra.

"The south today stands at a critical and existential juncture imposed by the realities of the political and military situation," al-Zubaidi said in a meeting last week with STC members. □



The president of the Yemen's Southern Transitional Council Aidarous Al-Zubaidi sits for an interview, Friday, Sept. 22, 2023, in New York, while attending the United Nations General Assembly's annual high-level meeting of world leaders.

Associated Press

National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation

The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the bright blue Cododo or mighty Warawara.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: A majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heading back to the ocean after laying her eggs during breeding season. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The



main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is and adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, or 4x4 vehicle. As of 2020, ATV's and UTVs are not allowed in the park due to its significant impact on nature.

Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest to the history of Aruba. The Caquetio Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

Park Management

The Aruba Conservation Foundation (ACF), formerly known as Aruba National Park Foundation, manages the national park. This foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under management increased by 70 hectares while the amount

of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of ACF. In 2019, preliminary management plan for marine were introduced for Parke Marino to conserve reefs, seagrass beds, and mangrove forests and in 2020 ACF was given additional management areas such as the Saliñas (Druif, Malmok, Cerca, Palm Beach, Bubali etc.) and also additional areas such as Rooi Manonchi, Ser'I Teishi etc. Managed areas can be seen here: <https://acf.aw/>.

Visit the National Park Arikok to see the wonder of Aruba's nature. The visitor center in San Fuego and entrance in Vader Piet (San Nicolas) is open daily from 8:00 AM to 16:00 PM. Contact the ACF via e-mail, info@acf.aw or call +297 585 1234 for more information. □

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NOORD — Paseo Herencia, situated in the heart of Palm Beach and within walking distance from the high-rise hotels, beckons with a diverse array of shopping, dining, and entertainment options in an outdoor setting.

Shopping

Paseo Herencia presents a captivating selection of stores catering to various preferences, encompassing beachwear, apparel, fragrances, footwear, jewelry, keepsakes, and much more. Unwind at Maggy's, indulging in their salon services while exploring a range of beauty products. For a memorable gift crafted from natural ingredients, explore Aruba Aloe's offerings. Iconic brands like Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Aldo, Carmen Steffens, Nike, and Pandora stand among the favorites.

Dining

Embark on a global culinary journey at Paseo Herencia's diverse array of restaurants, each offering a unique dining experience. From the vibrant flavors of Iguana Cantina's Mexican cuisine to the Spanish elegance of Xixon Spanish Restaurant, the innovative fusion of Pizza and Sushi at Fusion Cuisine, the grilled delights of Skewers Grill, the comfort of The Lazy Turtle, the creativity at Drunk's Denial, and the seafood sensation of Sexy Shrimps Bar, and the familiar warmth of Starbucks, indulge in an unforgettable gastronomic adventure that spans the world's finest cuisines, all within the charming ambiance of our outdoor center.

VIP Cinema

Indulge in an unparalleled cinematic experience at Caribbean Cinemas VIP, nestled on Paseo Herencia's second floor. Relax in supremely comfortable reclining seats while enjoying movies on high-quality screens with state-of-the-art projection and 7.1 Dolby surround sound. Don't forget to relish the delectable buttery popcorn.

Entertainment

Paseo Herencia offers live entertainment from Sunday to Thursday at 8pm on the center stage, as well as captivating nightly watershows at 7:30pm, 8:30pm, and 9:30pm. Thrill-seekers can explore the Airsoft experience, located behind The Lazy Turtle. For picture-perfect moments, capture Instagram-worthy shots at the Angel Wings installation between Pandora and Free Spirit, or amidst the Flying mosaic hearts behind King Churros. There's more fun in store with delightful kids' activities, including a Kid's carousel and train ride, available every day from 6 pm to 10 pm.

Parking is complimentary for up to two hours when shopping, dining, or enjoying a movie at Paseo Herencia. Simply present your purchase receipt to the parking cashier. For more details on specials and events, visit the Paseo Herencia website at www.paseoherencia.com. □



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One Love Foundation Inc. celebrates a heartfelt Giving Tuesday by lifting up Aruba's animal welfare community — and sharing the story of "Hope"

This year, One Love Foundation Inc. approached Giving Tuesday with a mission that was both simple and deeply meaningful: spread cheer across the island by supporting the organizations and individuals who show up every day for Aruba's animals.

Rather than focusing on a single fundraising message, One Love Foundation Inc. proudly donated \$1,000 each to eight of their rescue and welfare partners:

- Luna Foundation
- Sgt. Pepper's Friends
- Nisi Canis Heart of Gold Foundation
- Nine Lives Aruba
- Animal Relief Foundation
- New Life For Paws
- Crijojo Trappers
- Animal Welfare Alliance Aruba

In addition, the foundation contributed \$8,000 to Stimami Sterilisami to support island-wide FREE sterilization efforts, a vital initiative that will be generously matched dollar-for-dollar by Bucuti and Tara Beach Resort. This matching gift will double the life-changing impact for Aruba's animals and help curb the cycle of suffering for years to come.

A Giving Tuesday dedicated to Hope

One Love Foundation Inc. also chose to highlight a story that embodies everything this day repre-

sents — compassion, resilience, community, and second chances.

Her name is Hope.

Hope's journey is one of the most powerful reminders of why animal welfare work matters. When rescuers first found her, she had survived the unimaginable. Her spine had been shattered in seven places months earlier, and despite intense trauma and neglect, she held on. Even more incredible — she still trusted. She still loved. She still had Hope.

Nisi Canis Heart of Gold Foundation embraced her into their hospice care, giving her safety, tenderness, and a chance at healing. When One Love Foundation Inc. shared her story with their supporters, the community stepped forward immediately. Donations poured in to help fund her holistic therapies, including the chiropractic treatments giving her a real shot at walking again.

Last Tuesday, influencers @eric.and.joe joined One Love Foundation Inc. for one of Hope's beach therapy walks — followed by a joyful visit to Luna Foundation Aruba Inc. to meet the resident goats. Watching Hope light up, play, and even run in her wheels was one of the most unforgettable moments the team has shared on the island.

Her spirit is pure triumph — and a living example of the reason One Love Foundation Inc. chose to focus their Giving Tuesday on Hope.

Continuing Hope's healing

Hope has already come so far, but her journey isn't over yet.

She needs several more chiropractic treatments, each costing \$45, to give her the best chance of walking again.

On Giving Tuesday, One Love Foundation Inc. asked its community for one thing: Hope.

And it's not too late to join that mission.

Every treatment funded brings Hope one step closer to ditching her wheels — and one step closer to inspiring and helping another animal in need.

Wrapping up the week with celebration and purpose

To close out this impactful week, One Love Foundation Inc. hosted its 2nd Annual Holiday Cruise for the Cunucus aboard the Jolly Pirates.

With breathtaking views, festive energy, and a boat full of animal lovers, the event was more than a celebration — it was a fundraiser with purpose.

100% of the proceeds from the cruise go directly back to animal welfare efforts on the island, supporting rescue partners, medical care, and sterilization initiatives that save lives year-round.

A message of gratitude

"One Love Foundation Inc. is deeply grateful for every person who donated, shared, supported, or simply cared," the organization shared. "Hope's story is now a story of community. A story of compassion. And a story still being written — thanks to you."

About One Love Foundation Inc.

One Love Foundation Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization (EIN 85-1790155) and registered foundation with the Chamber of Commerce in Aruba (KvK S2090.0), dedicated to improving the welfare of dogs and cats in Aruba through rescue support, community partnerships, and accessible sterilization efforts. The foundation works hand-in-hand with local rescues, volunteers, and global supporters to bring hope, healing, and humane solutions to the island.

For media inquiries, partnership opportunities, or to donate to Hope's continued care, please contact:

One Love Foundation Inc.
OneLoveFoundationInc@yahoo.com



Princess Casino Aruba Extends Car Raffle Campaign to February 28, 2026

Palm Beach, Aruba – Princess Casino Aruba, the newest casino on the Palm Beach strip, announces the extension of its exciting 2026 Hyundai Accent Car Raffle. Originally scheduled for January 31st, 2026, the raffle will now take place on February 28th, 2026.

This decision comes in light of the Aruba Soca Monarch Finals taking place on January 31st a major national event that draws large crowds and active participation from the community. In an effort to remain transparent, fair, and customer-focused, Princess Casino Aruba has chosen to extend the promotion, ensuring that all players have an equal and enjoyable opportunity to participate.

"As part of our commitment to transparency and exceptional service, we want our members to enjoy both events without conflict," said the Princess Casino management team. "Extending the raffle date gives every Royal Member more time to collect tickets, play their favorite games, and increase their chances of driving home in a brand-new car."

Guests can enter the raffle by simply joining the Princess Casino Loyalty



Program and playing with their membership card to automatically collect tickets.

Princess Casino Aruba invites all guests, locals and visitors to join the excitement, enjoy the modern gaming floor, and experience the Royal treatment the casino is known for. □

Today is going to be a good day

(Oranjestad)—Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Nature Calls

The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the

island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center.

For more information, visit the website www.acf.aw

The Lighthouse

No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most



known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building

a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light.

Kayak in the Mangroves

Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout—as it might get a little windy and rough—you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. It's fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. □



The stories of "Compa Nanzi"

(Oranjestad)—The most popular character you may hear about in the Caribbean is Anansi, known locally on Aruba as "Compa Nanzi". Local children grew up hearing the tales of the conniving spider, and his legacy forms part of the oral narrative tradition that is common in Aruba.

Although the stories are most popular in the Caribbean, "Compa Nanzi" is not entirely unknown globally, especially not in the West African region. Brought to the "new world" by enslaved Africans from Ghana, the historical thread of how Nanzi was introduced on Aruba follows the enslaved Africans in Curacao during the colonial era, which saw the biggest population of enslaved Africans in the Dutch Caribbean.

The stories of Compa Nanzi were a sign of hope for freedom among the slaves, who passed around different stories involving the famous spider through word of mouth, due to not being able to express their native culture in the new world. These stories were a way to not only preserve their culture, but it acted as a medium for relief during the harsh treatment to which they were subjected to.

It wasn't until the end of the nineteenth century that the stories of Nanzi were written down in different languages. However, not all stories are completely alike in every country, as is the risk of oral story telling. However, one thing will always be dominant in Compa Nanzi's stories: his sneaky ways to get what he wants!

How Nanzi fooled the king
One day Nanzi was taking a stroll near the castle of Shon Arei, the king. He had this sudden urge to walk in. He didn't think too much about it and committed to what he had in mind. It was a warm afternoon, and the castle personnel were taking their afternoon nap. Even the soldier guarding the castle door was fast asleep, snoring so loud that his beard bounced up and down on his chin. Nanzi just slipped past him, looked back for a moment then walk

right on in.

Nanzi stumbled upon the king's quarters. With all his excitement he sat in the king's throne, and put on his crown that was hanging on the side of the throne. It was very hot that day, and it wasn't long until Nanzi too fell asleep, right there on the king's throne. He was so deep in sleep and snoring so loud, that even when the king found him in his seat, Nanzi did not even notice.

Shon Arei was flabbergasted by the sight of Nanzi on his throne, wearing his crown. How disrespectful! "Soldiers, get him!" he commanded. Nanzi was sound asleep, but when the soldiers picked him up, he jumped from fright. By then though, the soldier already had him in their hold.

"Put him in a sack, stitch it up and throw him in the ocean!" the king said furiously. Two soldiers immediately entered the chamber, took the crown off Nanzi's head and pushed him in a sack.

Nanzi was terrified; it looks like this time he won't get away with his schemes. To get to the ocean, the soldier walked a long distance, and where beginning to feel very thirsty. Luckily they passed by a pub, and decided to have a nice cold beer. They set the sack with Nanzi in it outside and went to enjoy the refreshments. Nanzi was still trembling with fear in the sack.

What is that he hears? A herd of sheep walking by?
"Compadre, listen here!" Nanzi screamed as loud as he could. The sheep herder got close to the sack. "What is this?"

"Man, there is something very beautiful in here that you can see. It's very rare and strange, but indeed, there is something so beautiful in here that you've never seen or will ever see," Nanzi told the herder.

The herder, very dumb, believed Nanzi's word. "Let me see!" he said.

"Well if you must insist," Nanzi said, "I'll let you take a look, but only for a quick sec-

ond." The herder opened the sack, and Nanzi immediately jumped out. Before the herder could even take a look into the sack, Nanzi pushed him in it, and the herder fell head first in.

Nanzi didn't waste any time, and closed off the sack real tight. He then picked up the herder's hat and started walking behind the traveling sheep as if nothing happened. After a little while, the soldiers headed back outside to continue their journey. As they picked up the sack, the poor herder started screaming to let him out, but the soldiers ignored him, thinking it was Nanzi.

Shon Arei went strolling a while later. He thought to himself: "This time Nanzi could not get away with his foolishness. He probably drowned in that sack ages ago." That is why, when he saw Nanzi walk behind the herd of sheep on the street, he was flabbergasted again. "Nanzi! Aren't you suppose to be at the bottom of the ocean floor?"

"I was, Your Majesty," Nanzi replied. But you know what; there are so many things to see down there in the sack! Like this herd of sheep. Seeing that they had no herder, I started walking behind them and gained their trust pretty quickly. At the bottom of the ocean there are so many wonderful things, like diamonds, and bags of gold. Chests of silver and other precious stones," Nanzi told the king.

"What is that you say?" the king was intrigued. "I want to see it too!"
The king immediately demanded to his soldiers to be put in a sack and be placed in the ocean. Naturally, Shon Arei died because of this. He was never found again. Nanzi followed the soldier back to the castle, where sat once again on the late king's thrown and put his crown on. He took possession of all of Shon Arei's belongings, and lived the rest of his life as king. □

Story and pictures are from "Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)" by Nilda Pinto.



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 42 Birch's kin

1 Snoozes 43 Uses a

5 Church needle

leader 44 Blue hue

9 Della's

boss

10 Isolated

12 — a limb

13 Pine

product

14 Be an

omen

16 Corp.'s

superior

17 Hole

number

18 Speculate

20 Milano

of TV

22 General

Bradley

23 Score

speed

25 Bar mixer

28 Riviera

nation

32 Washing

machine

cycle

34 Gangland

gun

35 Flock

father

36 Gift

38 Be

penitent

40 School

event

41 Wyoming's

— Range

DOWN

1 Kind of

network

2 Blood

line

3 Debate

group

4 Transmis-

sion gap

5 "Gay" city

of song

6 Bullring

cry

7 American

marsupial

8 Puzzle

9 Momma's

mate

11 Door sign

15 Language

topic

19 Shortly

21 RR stops

24 Probed

with a

stick

25 Small

herring

26 Speaks

27 Reduce

in rank

29 Meeting

30 Make

void

31 Mink's

cousin

33 Some

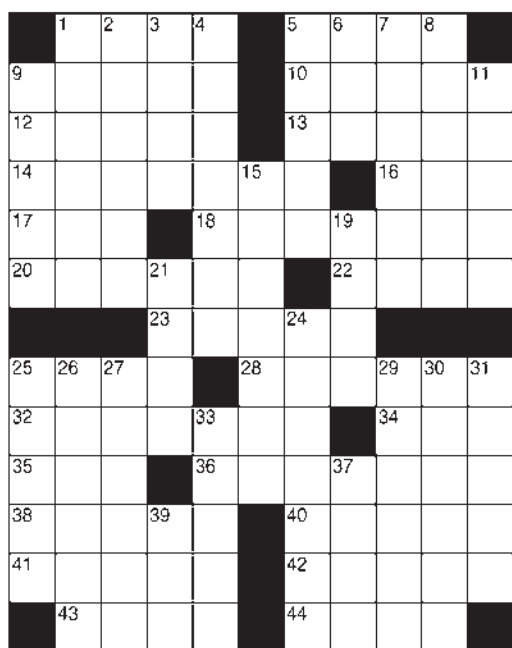
tourneys

37 Store

event

39 At this

moment



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-23 CRYPTOQUOTE

U O I I Y T Z H X H A E H S Y Y

R A Y N Z T B S Y J H O A P C S C H

J Q M H J Y Z P C A M J S U O J H X H .

— T Z Q Z Y N Z

Cryptoquote: CHARITY IS NOT A BONE YOU THROW TO A DOG, BUT A BONE YOU SHARE WITH A DOG. — CHINESE PROVERB

Cruise ship Schedule: Dec. 12 - 18 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
FRI	12	CRYSTAL SERENITY	08.00	18.00	B	1
		NORWEGIAN PEARL	08.00	20.00	C	1
SUN	14	ENCHANTED PRINCESS	07.00	16.00	B	1
		CARIBBEAN PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	16	NORWEGIAN EPIC	08.00	17.00	B	1
		MARELLA DISCOVERY 2	08.00	20.00	C	1
WED	17	SILVER SHADOW	08.00	14.00	B	1
		SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
		OASIS OF THE SEAS	07.00	16.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	18	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE	08.00	20.00	C	1
		VOLENDAM	08.00	17.00	B	1
		AIDASOL	08.00	18.00	I	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



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SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

		2	7	5	8		4	
	6		2		3		8	
8			4	1	6	9	5	2
	9			2	7		6	
			8	6		5		
					4			
	4					8	9	
3		1	6		9	7		5
	5			8	2	4	3	

Difficulty: ★★

12/16

Answer to previous puzzle

3	2	1	8	5	6	4	9	7
6	8	4	7	3	9	1	2	5
9	7	5	1	4	2	3	8	6
5	1	6	3	2	8	7	4	9
2	9	7	5	1	4	8	6	3
8	4	3	6	9	7	5	1	2
1	6	8	2	7	3	9	5	4
4	3	2	9	8	5	6	7	1
7	5	9	4	6	1	2	3	8

Difficulty: ★

12/15

Like many holiday traditions, lighting candles and fireplaces is best done in moderation



This Feb. 2, 2015 photo shows rocking chairs in front of the massive stone fireplace in the lobby of the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, N.C.

Associated Press

By **CHEYANNE MUMPHREY**
Associated Press

The warm spices in gingerbread, the woodsy aroma of pine and fir trees, and the fruity tang of mulled wine are smells synonymous with the holiday season. Many people enjoy lighting candles, incense and fireplaces in their homes to evoke the moods associated with these festive fragrances.

Burning scented products may create a cozy ambiance, and in the case of fireplaces, provide light and heat, but some experts want people to consider how doing so contributes to the quality of the air indoors. All flames release chemicals that may cause allergy-like symptoms or contribute to long-term respiratory problems if they are inhaled in sufficient quantities.

However, people don't have to stop sitting by the hearth or get rid of products like perfumed candles and essential oil diffusers, said Dr. Meredith McCormack, director of the pulmonary and critical care medicine division at John Hopkins University's medical school. Instead, she recommends taking precautions to control the pollutants in their homes. □

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Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

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Eagle: Tel.587 9011
San Nicolas:
Centro Medico:Tel.584 5794

OTHER

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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'This is Spinal Tap,' 'The Princess Bride' and more: Rob Reiner's best films and where to watch them

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

Rob Reiner made the kind of movies that we all re-watch already. They're the films that we quote without having to think about it, the ones we hold up as gold standards of comedy, romance, drama and suspense, the ones we wish they made today.

Before his death Sunday, it was not uncommon, or unwarranted, to marvel at his incredible streak of films from 1984, when he made his directorial debut with the mockumentary "This Is Spinal Tap," through 1995 with "The American President." Not to mention his comedic excellence in front of the camera, where he made a feast out of even the smallest roles, whether it was telling Tom Hanks about tiramisu in "Sleepless in Seattle" or yelling at Leonardo DiCaprio for his credit card bill in "The Wolf of Wall Street."

When people bemoan that they don't make movies like they used to, Reiner's genre-spanning films from that decade are often the kinds they're talking about. There might not be a best picture winner in the bunch, but it hardly matters. He made films that we remember.

Here are some of the best and where to watch them.

"This Is Spinal Tap" (1984)

"There's a fine line between stupid and clever," Christopher Guest's guitarist Nigel Tufnel observes in "This Is Spinal Tap" and Reiner's almost entirely improvised film about a British heavy metal group's disastrous tour is proof. In its unabashed commitment to silliness, it captured truths about rock 'n' roll, the music industry and ego.

Reiner even based his documentary filmmaker character Marty DiBergi on Martin Scorsese in "The Last Waltz," which he might have been a little upset about at first but has come to love over the years. While Reiner and his friends never dared take credit for the mockumentary, he



Rob Reiner arrives at the premiere of "Spinal Tap II: The End Continues" on Sept. 9, 2025, at The Egyptian Theatre Hollywood in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

did say that perhaps they made their first "mock rock doc."

MOST MEMORABLE LINE: "These go to 11."

WHERE TO WATCH: Streaming on Roku, TCM, DIRECTV Stream and HBO MAX. Also available to rent or buy.

"Stand by Me" (1986)

This coming-of-age classic, adapted from a Stephen King story, follows four 12-year-old boys on a search for a missing kid in 1950s Oregon. It helped make a star out of River Phoenix, along with Wil Wheaton, Corey Feldman and Jerry O'Connell, and it came to Reiner only because Adrian Lyne had dropped out.

In 2021, Reiner told The Guardian that the film meant more to him than any other he'd made. "It was the first time I did a film that reflected my own personal sensibility; it had a mixture of melancholy, humor and nostalgia," he said.

"I was 12 in 1959, so the music was the music I listened to and the feelings I had in relation to my father, I injected into the film. When it came out and was accepted it validated me."

MOST MEMORABLE LINE: "I never had any friends later

on like the ones I had when I was 12. Jesus, does anyone?"

WHERE TO WATCH: Streaming on Netflix, fuboTV and Philo. Also available to buy.

"The Princess Bride" (1987) Carl Reiner famously gifted his son William Goldman's novel, which became his favorite and set him on path to adapt it for the big screen, which many had already tried and failed to do. Norman Lear came to the rescue once more (he funded "Spinal Tap") and gave Reiner the money to make "The Princess Bride." They assembled one of the great ensembles with Robin Wright, Cary Elwes, Chris Sarandon, Wallace Shawn, Mandy Patinkin, Carol Kane, Billy Crystal, Peter Falk and André the Giant to bring to life this very singular, very clever tale of love, adventure and storytelling that would have many more lives as a home video staple.

MOST MEMORABLE LINE: "Have fun storming the castle!"

WHERE TO WATCH: Streaming on Hulu, Disney+ and DIRECTV Stream. Also available to rent or buy.

"When Harry Met Sally..." (1989)

Reiner enlisted Nora Eph-

ron to help take an honest look at dating and relationships in what would become one of the most beloved romantic comedies, following Meg Ryan's Sally and Crystal's Harry across 12 years. Reiner's mother, Estelle, was the key to the most iconic scene in Katz's Delicatessen, a location which took on a new fame as well.

Around the film's 30th anniversary, Reiner reflected on its longevity.

"I think people see some basic truths about men and women when they watch that movie," he told The Associated Press. "To me, the dance that happens between men and women is forever."

MOST MEMORABLE LINE: "I'll have what she's having."

WHERE TO WATCH: Streaming on Roku, STARZ and DIRECTV Stream. Also available to rent or buy.

"Misery" (1990)

Reiner re-teamed with Goldman to adapt King's "Misery," about a famous novelist (James Caan) who after a car crash finds himself in the captive care of a crazed fan (Kathy Bates). Warren Beatty was initially attached to star and told Reiner that he didn't see it as a horror movie or a thriller

but a prison movie. It's also kind of a comedy. When Reiner rewatched the film to talk about it earlier this year at the TCM Classic Film Festival, he said even he was surprised at how many laughs there were.

MOST MEMORABLE LINE: "I'm your number one fan!"

WHERE TO WATCH: Available to buy on Prime Video and Apple TV.

"A Few Good Men" (1992)

The death of a Marine at Guantanamo Bay provides the backdrop for the Aaron Sorkin-penned courtroom drama, which went to Broadway before the big screen.

In Reiner's hands, pitting Tom Cruise as a cocky, plea-happy junior lawyer against Jack Nicholson as an intimidating commanding officer, it became a hit that would score a best picture nomination. Nicholson would reunite with Reiner 15 years later for "The Bucket List."

MOST MEMORABLE LINE: "You can't handle the truth!"

WHERE TO WATCH: Streaming on BBC America, Philo and DIRECTV Stream. Also available to buy.

"The American President" (1995)

Working with another Sorkin script, Reiner returned to the romantic comedy to tell a story about a widower U.S. president (Michael Douglas) who begins dating an environmental lobbyist (Annette Bening). Roger Ebert wrote in his review, "It is hard to make a good love story, harder to make a good comedy and harder still to make an intelligent film about politics. Rob Reiner's 'The American President' cheerfully does all three, and is a great entertainment one of those films, like 'Forrest Gump' or 'Apollo 13,' that however briefly unites the audience in a reprise of the American dream."

MOST MEMORABLE LINE: "You fight the fights that need fighting."

WHERE TO WATCH: Available to rent or buy. □

Injuries to Patrick Mahomes and Micah Parsons ruin NFL's Week 15



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes grabs his knee after being injured during the second half of an NFL football game against the Los Angeles Chargers, Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025 in Kansas City, Mo.

By **ROB MAADDI AP**
Pro Football Writer

First, Patrick Mahomes went down. Then, it was Micah Parsons.

The NFL lost two of its all-time greatest players to serious knee injuries in a span of a few hours on Sunday, ruining a day filled with exciting comebacks and fascinating stories.

Forty-four-year-old Philip Rivers played his first game in 1,800 days and nearly

led the 14-point underdog Indianapolis Colts to a stunning upset against Seattle before Jason Myers kicked a 56-yard field goal with 29 seconds left to lift the Seahawks to an 18-16 victory. Reigning NFL MVP Josh Allen led the Buffalo Bills from a 21-0 deficit to a 35-31 victory at New England, snapping the Patriots' 10-game winning streak and preventing them from clinching the AFC East.

Rookie quarterback Tyler Shough rallied the New Orleans Saints to a 20-17 comeback victory over the Panthers capped by Charlie Smyth's 47-yarder as time expired, damaging Carolina's chances to win the NFC South and boosting Tampa Bay's hopes. Matthew Stafford and the Los Angeles Rams overcame a 10-point deficit and rolled past the Lions 41-34, dampening Detroit's

Associated Press

playoff bid. The Rams lost three-time All-Pro wide receiver Davante Adams to a hamstring injury in the game. He could miss Thursday night's game at Seattle, a battle for first place in the NFC West.

Jalen Hurts played like the Super Bowl MVP and the Philadelphia Eagles snapped a three-game losing streak with a 31-0 rout over the woeful Las Vegas Raiders.

But the injuries to Mahomes and Parsons overshadowed everything else that happened in Week 15.

Even the Chiefs being eliminated from playoff contention was secondary to the news about Mahomes.

The three-time Super Bowl MVP tore the ACL in his left knee late in the fourth quarter of a 16-13 loss to the Los Angeles Chargers that ended Kansas City's streak of 10 straight playoff appearances and seven consecutive trips to the AFC championship game. "Don't know why this had to happen," Mahomes posted on social media before the diagnosis was announced. "And not going to lie it hurts. But all we can do now is trust in God and attack every single day over and over again.

Thank you Chiefs kingdom for always supporting me and for everyone who has reached out and sent prayers. I will be back stronger than ever."

Parsons is believed to have suffered a torn ACL in his left knee, a person with knowledge of the All-Pro pass rusher's injury told The Associated Press on Sunday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the severity of the injury hadn't been confirmed by tests.

"I'm sickened," Parsons told the AP in a text message.

Parsons' injury is a devastating blow to the Green Bay Packers, who lost 34-26 to Denver on Sunday to fall a half-game behind the NFC North-leading Chicago Bears.

Parsons was steps away from another sack when he suddenly pulled up and fell to the ground, grabbing at his left knee.

Asked about the possibility that Parsons tore his ACL, coach Matt LaFleur responded: "It doesn't look good. I'll leave it at that."

With Parsons, the Packers were Super Bowl contenders. Without him, it'll be much more difficult to get there. □

Diego Pavia apologizes for outburst after Heisman loss, intends to play in ReliaQuest Bowl

By **MAURA CAREY**
AP Sports Writer

Vanderbilt quarterback Diego Pavia has apologized for his comments after finishing second in Heisman votes behind Indiana quarterback Fernando Mendoza on Saturday night.

Mendoza became the first Hoosier to win the award, and the competition wasn't particularly close. The Indiana quarterback earned 2,362 points, including 643 first-place votes. Pavia was next in line with 1,435 points. The two other finalists were Notre Dame running back Jeremiah Love (719 points) and Ohio State quarterback Julian Sayin (432

points).

After the ceremony, Pavia re-posted an Instagram story of himself and his offensive line captioned "F-ALL THE VOTERS, BUT.. FAMILY FOR LIFE." He also reposted comments from Skip Bayless on social media, stating that the Vanderbilt signal-caller should've won the award and seemingly throwing a jab at Mendoza's six-minute acceptance speech. Pavia was photographed at a club later that night with a sign reading "F Indiana" in his section.

The Heisman runner-up apologized for his actions on Sunday night.

"Being a part of the Heis-

man ceremony last night as a finalist was such an honor. As a competitor, just like in everything I do, I wanted to win. To be so close to my dream and come up short was painful. I didn't handle those emotions well at all and did not represent myself the way I wanted to. I have much love and respect for the Heisman voters and the selection process, and I apologize for being disrespectful. It was a mistake, and I am sorry," Pavia wrote in a post on social media.

Pavia went on to call Mendoza an 'elite competitor' and a 'deserving winner of the award.' He applauded Mendoza's accom-

plishments and shouted out Sayin and Love.

"I've been doubted my whole life.

Every step of my journey

I've had to break down doors and fight for myself, because I've learned that nothing would be handed to me. □



Heisman Trophy finalist Vanderbilt quarterback Diego Pavia speaks during an NCAA college football news conference before the award ceremony, Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025, in New York.

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Scottie Scheffler joins Tiger Woods by winning PGA Tour player of the year for 4th straight year

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

Scottie Scheffler earned another comparison with Tiger Woods on Monday, joining him as the only players to win PGA Tour player of the year at least four times in a row.

Scheffler made an easy case to pick up another Jack Nicklaus Award. His tour-leading six victories were twice as many as anyone else and included two majors, the PGA Championship and the British Open, to leave him on the cusp of a career Grand Slam. He became the first player since Woods in 2000 to lead the PGA Tour with the lowest scoring average in each of the four rounds. Scheffler was on the ballot with Rory McIlroy, Tommy Fleetwood and Ben Griffin. The award is a vote of the players, though the PGA Tour did not release what



Scottie Scheffler of the United States holds the Claret Jug trophy as he poses for photographers after winning the British Open golf championship at the Royal Portrush Golf Club, Northern Ireland, July 20, 2025.

percentage of the votes Scheffler received or how many players voted. Woods is an 11-time winner of the award and won five straight times from 1999 through 2003.

McIlroy had a big year in his own right, nothing grander than his playoff victory in the Masters for the final leg of the career Grand Slam and a green jacket he had been pursuing for 15 years.

He also added titles at Pebble Beach and The Players Championship. Scheffler, however, has been putting on a master class of consistency since breaking through with his

first PGA Tour title in 2022. Along with 19 victories in his last 80 events on the PGA Tour that doesn't include his Olympic gold medal last year in Paris Scheffler has finished among the top three in just over 46% of his PGA Tour starts.

This season alone, Scheffler led the PGA Tour in 17 statistical categories, ranging from his accuracy from tee-to-green, how often he followed a bogey with a birdie or better (36%) and official earnings, which this year topped \$27 million.

And he effectively gave McIlroy and everyone else a head start. Scheffler sliced his right hand during Christmas last year while using a wine glass to cut ravioli. He missed nearly two months and didn't really find his groove until a week before the Masters when he was runner-up in Houston. □

Associated Press

Dodgers owe \$1.06 billion in deferred money to 9 players through 2047 after Edwin Díaz deal

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Edwin Díaz won't receive all of his \$69 million from the Dodgers until 2047, with the closer's deal raising deferred payment obligations for the two-time World Series champions to more than \$1.06 billion due to nine players. As part of the three-year contract announced Friday, Díaz gets a \$9 million signing bonus payable on Feb. 1, according to terms obtained by The Associated Press. He receives a \$14 million salary next year and \$23 million in each of the following two seasons. The Dodgers will defer \$4.5

million annually. Díaz's deferred money is payable in 10 equal installments each July 1. The 2026 money is due from 2036-45, the 2027 money from 2037-46 and

the 2028 money from 2038-47. Los Angeles has a \$6.5 million conditional team option for 2029 with no buy-out. The option could be exercised if he has a speci-

fied injury through the end of the 2028 season and he does not end the season or postseason healthy, or if he has a specified surgery. If the conditional option is exercised, he could earn \$2.5 million in performance bonuses for 2029 based on games finished: \$750,000 each for 45 and 50 games and \$1 million for 55.

Díaz gets a hotel suite on road trips and will make a charitable contribution of 1% of his income.

His deferred payments raise the Dodgers' total to \$1,064,500. Their high point due in a year is \$102.3 million in both 2038 and 2039.

Ohtani, Betts, Snell and Freeman among others

owed deferred

Los Angeles also owes deferred payments to two-way star Shohei Ohtani (\$680 million from 2034-43), outfielder/infielder Mookie Betts (\$115 million in salaries from 2033-44 and the final \$5 million of his signing bonus payable from 2033-35), left-hander Blake Snell (\$66 million from 2035-46), first baseman Freddie Freeman (\$57 million from 2028-40), catcher Will Smith (\$50 million from 2034-43) and utilityman Tommy Edman (\$25 million from 2037-44), reliever Tanner Scott (\$21 million 2035-46) and outfielder Teoscar Hernández (\$32 million from 2030-39). □



Edwin Díaz speaks during his introduction as a new member of the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team Friday, Dec. 12, 2025, in Los Angeles.

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